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**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP**  
**INTELLIGENCE REPORT**

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COUNTRY USSR

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SUBJECT Miscellaneous Notes on the Soviet Union

DIST. 25 February 1947

PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT

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1. Military

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the town of Königsberg, which had been completely destroyed, was being reconstructed into a fortress. The harbor was likewise under construction with armored turrets, guns and underground chambers.

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2. Collective Farms

a. a collective farm in the Ostaschka region. The farms in this area average sixty to eighty hectares. There was not a single plough, and, consequently, all work had to be done by hand and with spades.

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b. In the second half of 1944, collective farms in the Lisischank territory, 120 kms. northwest of Voroshilovgrad, were about 700 hectares in size; some had not more than twenty to thirty head of cattle. Each collective farm worker was allowed to own one cow. The entire harvest was stored in warehouses from which people fetched their supplies. There was a great lack of food in this territory; a coat could be obtained for a loaf of bread.

3. Economic Conditions

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a. in July 1944 800 PWs were sent from the Ostaschka region to Lisischansk via Moscow-Kiev. Lisischansk is a large coal district with many hundreds of mines. In this territory there were eight large PW camps of 800 men each. The coal lies forty to fifty meters underground. The mining construction was very primitive, the ventilators bad and there was no machinery. Craters had to be produced by hand drilling. Thirty men worked in each mine in three shifts (twenty PWs and ten Soviet civilian deportees who were bitter anti-Stalinists). These thirty men were under the control of a "mine leader". All three shifts were, in turn, under the command of a supervisor who was responsible for the whole production.

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c.

in East Prussia in April 1945 saw 4,000 Pws load coal at Insterburg from normal-tracked onto Soviet-tracked cars. The coal comes from Germany and Poland and is routed to Moscow and Leningrad. The railroad had already been reconstructed on Soviet broad-gauge up to Königsberg-Insterburg. Before 25 November 1945, Austrians were treated better than Germans, but the opposite was the case after that date.

#### 4. Conditions in PW Camps

a.

in the hospital at Georgenburg near Insterburg, there were 2,500 patients and no medications. Between April and December 1945, 6,500 out of 12,000 men died of hunger, dysentery, typhus, etc. When the patients were examined to see if they were capable of work, the Soviet doctors pinched them and, if they felt firm flesh, pronounced them man capable of work, even if they had dysentery or tuberculosis. Then they were sent to the "Arbeitskommando" in Königsberg or Insterburg.

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b.

Frankfurt a.d. Oder where the Germans were released. The Austrians, however, were sent to the USSR, to Shepetovka in the Ukraine. The journey took five weeks in cattle cars, and there were many delays of from four to six days, as there were no locomotives. At Shepetovka the Pws had to work in a quarry where there was no modern machinery and everything had to be carried out by hand.

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c. Lager 307/11/Kirov/Ural is situated in the "Punishment Area" which is an area set aside for political prisoners. The officers in this area, but not the EMs, were sent there for punishment. Most officers in this camp are actually criminals and are made to work as EMs.

d. Conditions in camps other than those situated within the "Punishment Area" are much better. These camps are guarded by "PKs", i.e., unarmed German guards. All "active" officers (professional officers who entered the German armed forces after 1933) are considered Nazis and are treated in a different way. German emigres, easily discernible by their blue shirts, act as political advisers to Soviet commissars. German soldiers who deserted to the Red Army during the war get less onerous work to do than the average PW. There are free possibilities for political meetings within the camps.

e. The Vologda camp for officers, situated 40 miles east of Moscow, originally the center of General von Seydlitz's "Officers' League" and affiliated to the Soviet-sponsored "Free Germany" Committee, is now a model camp for non-Nazi officers. In direct contrast to other camps, officers there are not called upon to perform any work and are also allowed to wear their epaulettes, distinctions, and medals.

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